Government in recompense for the cancelled land annuities, and the control of fortified bases in Free State territory was transferred to the Dublin Government.

Again it seemed that Anglo-Irish relations had been permanently tranquillised, and again there was renewed friction, though this time not with Mr. de Valera's approval. A series of bomb explosions were organised in various parts of England by members of the officially disbanded Irish Republican Army, with the intention of forcing the British Government to abolish the partition of Ireland, and hand over the six northern counties to Dublin's jurisdiction. Though the I.R.A.'s terrorist activities did not achieve their object, they caused considerable annoyance and some loss of life. It was commonly assumed that they were encouraged, and perhaps financed, from Germany,[9] where, if there was not much enthusiasm for a united Ireland, there was great enthusiasm for a harassed England.

In all movements which undertake the championship of the oppressed, and demand the rectification of injustices and inequalities, there is, as in Don Quixote, a strong admixture of egotism. Their leaders are usually heroic; but when their heroism is no longer required, they are left disconsolate, and sometimes become embittered. It seems cruel that they should be deprived of the limelight, or at best deserve as veterans only

[9] It might seem surprising that patriots should thus invoke the aid of Germany, whose way with minorities and subject peoples is notoriously short; but there are many instances which go to show that the promoters of nationalist movements soon become more concerned to damage those who

delay the full realisation of their hopes than to enjoy the freedom they so urgently demand. Sir Roger Casement can scarcely have supposed that a successful invasion of Ireland under German auspices would result in the realisation of Irish independence. In the same way, when Lord Craigavon remarked in 1914 (as quoted in Sir Charles Feme's biography of Sir Austen Chamberlain): 'There is a spirit spreading abroad, which I can testify to from my personal knowledge, that Germany and the German Emperor would be preferred to the rule of John Redmond/ he was probably actuated more by hatred of his compatriots in Southern Ireland than by concern for his fellow Ulstermen.